



OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

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QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL – JUNE 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

The Office of Congressional Ethics (“OCE”) is an independent, non-partisan entity charged with reviewing allegations of misconduct against Members, Officers and staff of the House and, when appropriate, referring matters to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct (commonly referred to as the “Standards Committee”).

The mission of the OCE and its Board is to assist the United States House of Representatives in upholding high standards of ethical conduct for its Members, Officers and staff and, in so doing, to serve the American people.

The following is a report of the OCE’s work in the second quarter of 2009.

II. SUBMISSIONS

Any member of the public may bring a matter of suspected misconduct involving a Member, Officers or staff of the House to the attention of the OCE.

Approximately 67 private citizens have contacted the OCE in the April to June 2009 period. These contacts were of two types: (1) requests for information on the OCE and its procedures and (2) allegations of misconduct. Staff or any Board member may also submit information regarding an alleged violation for consideration by the Board.

III. BOARD ACTIONS

The OCE’s investigations have two stages: (1) a preliminary review, which is completed in 30 days and (2) a second-phase review which is completed in 45 days, with the possibility of a 14-day extension. Two Board members (one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the Minority Leader) may authorize a preliminary review if all available information provides a *reasonable basis* to believe that a violation may have occurred. Four Board members may vote to terminate a preliminary review.

Three Board members may authorize a second-phase review if all available information provides *probable cause* to believe a violation has occurred.

At the end of any second-phase review, the Board must recommend to the Standards Committee either that the matter requires the Committee's further review or that it should dismiss the matter. When it makes its recommendation, the OCE Board may also transmit to the Standards Committee a report that includes, among other things, findings of fact and citations to laws, rules or regulations that may have been violated.

A chart depicting the OCE's review process is attached to this report as Attachment A. This chart is also available on the OCE website at <http://oce.house.gov>.

Board Actions, Second Quarter 2009

Type of Action Board Meeting Date	Commence Preliminary Review	Terminate Matter	Commence Phase II Review	Extend Phase II Review	Referral to Standards Committee for Review	Referral to Standards Committee for Dismissal
April 24	0	0	4	4	0	0
May 29	6	0	0	0	5	1
June 26	8	4	2	0	0	0
Total for Qtr	14	4	6	4	5	1

After the June Board meeting the second-phase review in four matters ended. The Board shall address these reviews at their next regularly-scheduled meeting in July.

IV. A NOTE ON COOPERATION

The Board notes that it has opened 24 reviews since it began considering matters in March 2009. In all but one case, Members of the United States House of Representatives have fully cooperated with the Board's review. With one exception, Member cooperation has been timely. The Board has also received a high level of cooperation from third-parties who possess information that is relevant to the Board's reviews.

V. A NOTE ON PUBLIC RELEASE OF OCE REPORTS

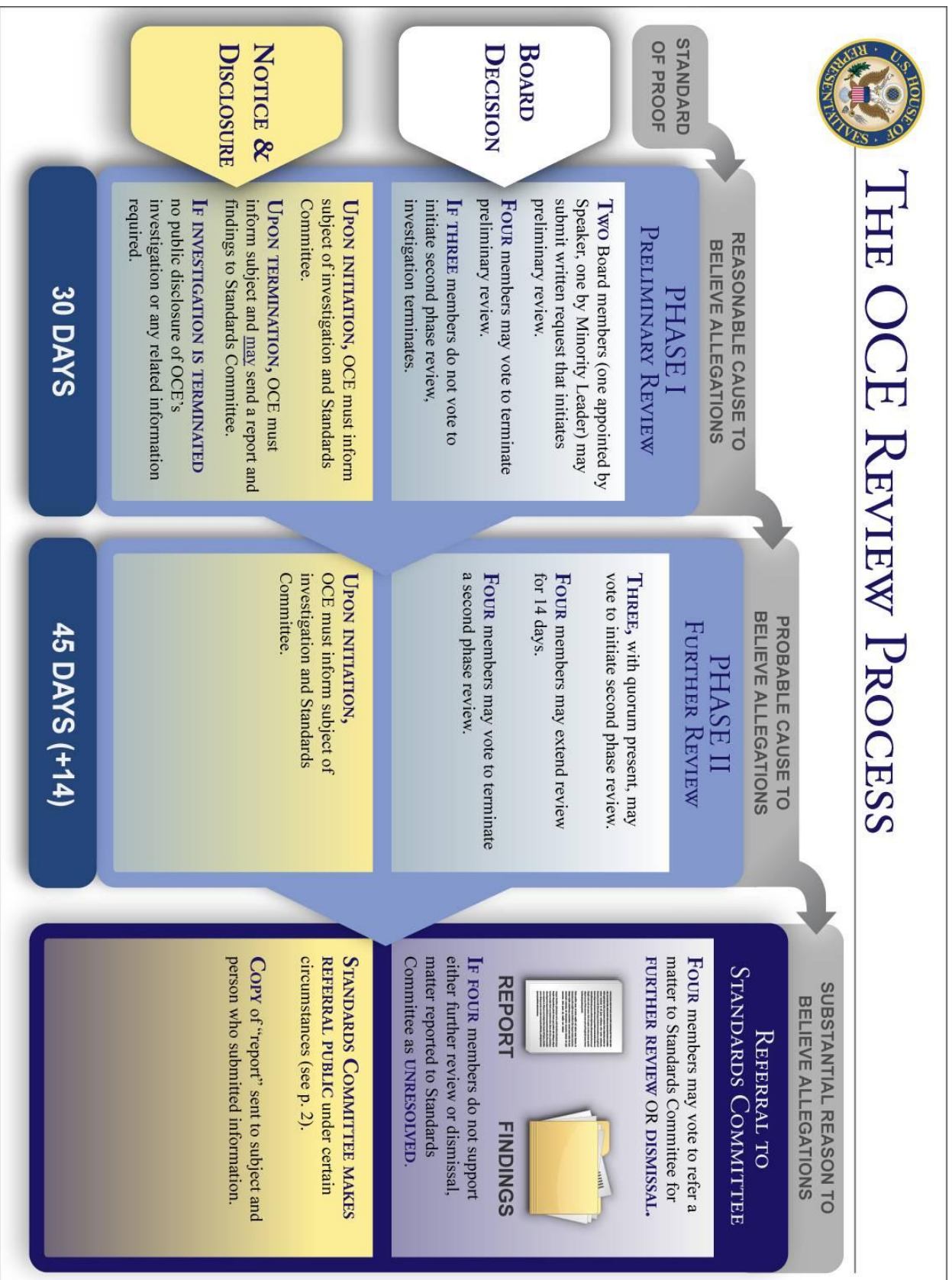
House Resolution 895 of the 110th Congress as amended (the "OCE Resolution") requires the Office to conduct confidential investigations. The OCE does not comment on specific matters until those matters are subject to public release under the process outlined in the OCE Resolution. In addition, the OCE does not make any public statement when it refers a matter to the Standards Committee for further review.

A chart depicting the schedule for public disclosure of OCE reports is attached to this report as Attachment B. This chart is also available on the OCE website at <http://oce.house.gov>.

Attachment A



THE OCE REVIEW PROCESS

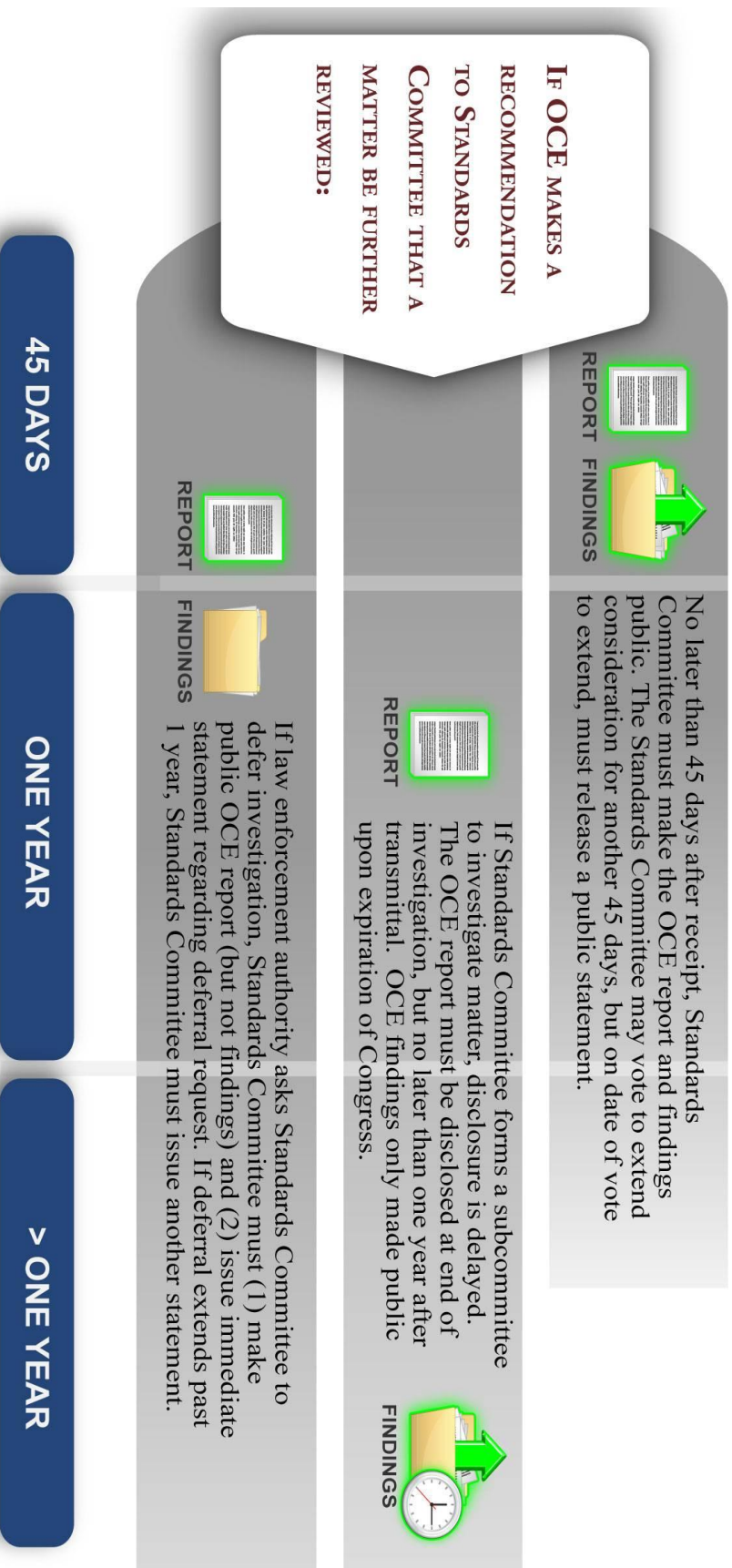


Attachment B



PUBLIC RELEASE OF OCE REFERRALS

FURTHER REVIEW





PUBLIC RELEASE OF OCE REFERRALS

Dismiss/No Recommendation

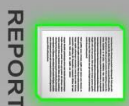


If Standards Committee fails to act, default schedule is triggered: the Standards Committee must make the OCE report and findings public no later than 45 days after receipt. If Standards Committee votes for 45-day extension, no public statement is necessary.



If Standards Committee affirmatively votes to dismiss the matter, then OCE report and findings need not be made public. Standards Committee may at its discretion make OCE material public, however.

IF OCE EITHER
(1) MAKES A
RECOMMENDATION TO
THE STANDARDS
COMMITTEE THAT A
MATTER BE DISMISSED,
OR (2) MAKES NO
RECOMMENDATION
DUE TO A TIE VOTE:



If Standards Committee forms a subcommittee to investigate matter, disclosure is delayed. The OCE report must be disclosed at end of investigation, but no later than one year after transmittal. OCE findings only made public upon expiration of Congress.



If law enforcement authority requests that Standards Committee defer investigation, Standards Committee only need issue statement regarding the deferral request. If deferral extends past 1 year, Standards Committee must issue another statement.

45 DAYS

ONE YEAR

> ONE YEAR